Telephone subscribers in Delhi

412. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether subscribers of mobile telephones run by private companies in Delhi are more than that of MTNL's landline connections;

(b) whether subscribers are surrendering landline telephones in a large number and switching over to mobile phones because of MTNL's poor and costly services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. As per the information provided by MTNL and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of the Cellular Mobile Operators, as on 30.06.2003, there were 21,72,789 land line telephones provided by MTNL, Delhi and 19,82,752 Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) connections provided by three private companies in Delhi.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Primarily on account of recent reduction in tariff of mobile telephones, it is possible that some subscribers might have migrated from landline to mobile phones.

C.A.G. report on telephone system in rural areas

†413. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has, in its recent report, criticized Government for unsatisfactory telephone system in the rural areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.